and institutes that turn out a large number of IT degree holder each year to avoid producing surplus IT professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has no such proposal to assess the requirement of IT professionals in India and abroad on annual basis.

Revision of monthly rents of MTNL and BSNL

1711. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering upward revision of the monthly rental of MTNL and BSNL fixed line telephones, increasing call charges and reduction of free calls; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal either in MTNL or BSNL.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of basic infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

†1712. SHRI PYRELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India's share in the global I.T. business alongwith the target thereof in furture;

(b) whether it is a fact that challenegs in this sector have tremendoulsy increased;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the efforts being made to erect a broad framework of basic infrastructure in the country in view of the said challenges, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government's attitude in the development of basic infrastructure like I.T. park in each State has been indifferent; and

(e) if not, the details of the said efforts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per NASSCOM, the Indian share in the global IT business is close to 1% and is estimated to be around 2.5% by 2008-2009.

(b) Yes, Sir. IT companies worldwide are faced with increasing pressure to improve business performance. Also, as other Asian countries are emerging as preferred destinations for BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) work, the challenge in this secotor is increasing.

(c) India is putting its best efforts to improve upon the infrastructure and skill development to meet the future challenges. Department of Information Technology (DIT) has created the basis infrastructure and facilities which provide the strength to IT industry for rapid and sustained growth. These facilities are: National Informatics Centres Network (NICNET); Education and Research Network (ERNET); High Speed Data Communication Facilities (STPI-Software Technology Parks of India); National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI); and Standardization, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC). Further, for strengthening the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) infrastructure, Government has undertaken initiatives such as Broadband Policy; Policy for IN Internet Domain Name; Guidelines for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWAN) upto block level; Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) framework for promoting use of digital signatures for e-commerce and e-governance applications; Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to enhance cyber security in the country.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up 44 STPI

centres including High Speed Data Communication facilities across the country. STPI centres have been set up at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Bhilai (Chhattisgarh).

Impact on IT boom

1713 SHRIMATI. JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Computer Programme Patenting in terms of the Indian Patent Act introduced by a recent Ordinance permitting all computer programmes to be patented is likely to hit IT boom in India;

(b) whether Government have examined the implications of the Ordinance as the Software patenting is likely to kill innovations by leaving small firms or software developer liable for patent infringement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. A computer programme *per se* other than its technical application to industry or a combination with hardware, is excluded from Patentability, and these are covered under the Indian Copyright Act. The Ordinance in so far as Computer Programmes are concerned, provides clarification to the existing Patent (Amendment) Act, 2002.

(b) to (d) Since Patent Protection, if any, is only territorial in nature, the said Ordinance is not likely to kill innovations by small firms or software developers.

Reduction of investment in telephone projects

†1714. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to reduce its investment in telephone projects for rural areas;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.